

REMARKS

The Office action dated January 23, 2006 and the cited references have been carefully considered.

Status of the Claims

Claims 4-9 are pending.

Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinohe (U.S. Patent 6,878,792 or EP 1 293 541 A2). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Remarks on the Amendment to the Specification

Formula 3 on page 11 is amended to present the correct maleimide group of the compound of Formula 3, as specified by its chemical name in paragraph [0018]. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinohe. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Ichinohe does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of each of claims 7-9.

"To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (8th ed., Rev. 4, August 2005).

Ichinohe does not teach or suggest the dyes represented by Formulas 2, 3, 4, or 5, as recited in claims 4-9. Therefore Ichinohe does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of each of these claims.

Since Ichinohe does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of each of claims 4-9, Ichinohe does not render these claims obvious.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 20, 2006